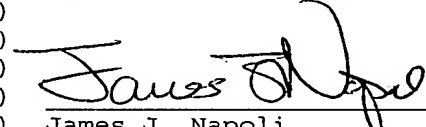




IFW

PATENT--NO FEE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Applicant:                      | ) I hereby certify that this   |
| BRIAN R. SAMUELS                | ) paper is being deposited   |
|                                 | ) with the United States   |
| Serial No.: 10/798,462          | ) Postal Service with  |
| Filed: March 11, 2004           | ) sufficient postage, as   |
|                                 | ) first class mail, in an  |
| For: A FIRM HAVING A LIQUID     | ) envelope addressed to:   |
| ABSORBED THEREIN                | ) Commissioner for Patents   |
|                                 | ) P.O. Box 1450  |
| Attorney Docket No. 29214/40015 | ) Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  |
|                                 | )  |
| Group Art Unit: 1773            | ) Dated: June 21, 2004   |
|                                 | )  |
| Examiner: Unassigned            | )  |
|                                 | ) James J. Napoli  |
|                                 | ) Registration No. 32,361  |
|                                 | ) Attorney for Applicants  |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to his duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicant hereby brings to the examiner's attention patents and patent publications that may be material to the examination of the above-identified application. Therefore, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, applicant encloses a completed Form PTO-1449 listing the possibly pertinent patents and patent publications and a copy of each non-U.S. patent and patent publication.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted more than three months after the filing date of the above-identified application, and, to applicant's

knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office.

The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A duplicate copy of this Transmittal is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

**MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP**

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Napoli", is written over a horizontal line.

James J. Napoli  
(Registration No. 32,361)  
Attorneys for Applicants  
6300 Sears Tower  
233 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 474-6300

Chicago, Illinois  
June 21, 2004

Form 1449PTO

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Application Number | 10/798.462 |
|--------------------|------------|

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| Filing Date | March 11, 2004 |
|-------------|----------------|

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| First Named Inventor | Brian R. Samuels |
|----------------------|------------------|

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Group Art Unit | 1773 |
|----------------|------|

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Examiner Name | Unassigned |
|---------------|------------|

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Attorney Docket Number | 29214/40015 |
|------------------------|-------------|

Sheet

1

of

1

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Document Number | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
|                    |          | 3,378,379       | 07/08/1965                     |
|                    |          | 6,200,613       | 03/13/2001                     |
|                    |          | 2003/0031765    | 02/13/2003                     |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY |
|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                    |          | WO 02/078455 (EPO)      | 10/10/2002                     |
|                    |          | WO 03/028470 (EPO)      | 04/10/2003                     |
|                    |          | WO 03/086087 (EPO)      | 10/23/2003                     |
|                    |          | 0 797 918 (EPO)         | 10/01/1997                     |
|                    |          | 0 920 808 (EPO)         | 06/09/1999                     |
|                    |          | 1 380 212 (EPO)         | 01/14/2004                     |
|                    |          | 2 009 033 (UK)          | 06/13/1979                     |
|                    |          | 2 380 778 (CA)          | 10/10/2002                     |

## OTHER PRIOR ART – NONPATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

|                    |  |                 |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.